

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

June 1, 2021
(Via GoToMeeting and In-Person)
7:00 PM

OPENING STATEMENT

Mayor Innella called the Montague Township Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. announcing that adequate notice has been provided to the New Jersey Herald and the Sunday New Jersey Herald for publication in which notice was given of the date, time, place and general agenda of the meeting according to the Open Public Meetings Act.

FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance commenced.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Ms. Martin, Mr. Merusi, Mr. Zitone, Mayor Innella
Also present was Deputy Clerk Dana Klinger. Municipal Attorney Rossmeissl attended by phone.

Excused: Ms. Crawford

PROPOSALS- Cleaning Service – Mayor Innella commented that the Township has received three proposals for a Cleaning Service for a twice a week cleaning of the Municipal Building and a once weekly cleaning of the new Community Center. Quotes were received from Chelbus cleaning which came in the lowest, Let It Shine Cleaning which came in the second lowest, and Vanguard Cleaning Service which came in the highest. Before making any decision, Ms. Martin made a motion to table so that one more quote could be received from another company, Wash on Wheels. Mr. Zitone questioned if this would be appropriate since the proposals have been announced. After confirmation from the Municipal Attorney that this would be okay Mr. Zitone seconded Ms. Martin’s motion to table. The motion then carried with a unanimous voice vote.

VOUCHERS

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve the vouchers. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with Ms. Martin, Mr. Merusi, and Mayor Innella all voting yes and Mr. Zitone abstaining.

MINUTES

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2021. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCES (First Reading)

2021-12 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF A GRADER. THE TOTAL COST OF THE EQUIPMENT IS \$15,000.00, APPROPRIATING A SUM OF \$15,000.00 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROAD EQUIPMENT

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-12 upon introduction. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2021-13 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54B-11 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN ORDER TO INCREASE REGISTRATION/LICENSE AND INSPECTION FEES FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-13 upon introduction. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS

2021-48 RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONTAGUE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2004 ELGIN PELICAN STREET SWEEPER FROM THE BOROUGH OF

LEONIA

Mr. Merusi made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-48. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

2021-50 DUPLICATE TAX SALE CERTIFICATE (BL 19.01, LOT 3)

Mr. Zitone made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-50. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Montague Township Land Use Board Attorney, William Haggerty – Regarding Ordinance Consistency Review (Regulating Keeping of Chickens) – Mayor Innella stated that the Township Committee had sent the introduced Ordinance to the Township Land Use Board for review and consistency with the Master Plan. After the Land Use Board’s review, they found it to be consistent with the Master Plan but did recommend a few changes which would allow for one rooster on a 2.5-acre lot. Mayor Innella added that the Township Committee is not in favor of lowering the minimum acreage. The original introduced Ordinance will be scheduled for public hearing at the next Committee meeting on June 22, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

NJ Office of Clean Energy – Direct Install Program – Deputy Clerk Dana Klinger explained that the State of New Jersey is offering eligible municipalities incentives for energy efficiency upgrades through the New Jersey Clean Energy Direct Install Program. The State’s designated vendor, Donnelly Energy, has conducted a site assessment and created a scope of work that would upgrade the Municipal Building’s lighting, HVAC, and Hot Water Demand Control Measures. Through this assessment they came up with a cost of \$30,138.06 in total cost with the State covering \$11,247.47 and the Municipality being responsible for \$18,890.59. Deputy Clerk Dana Klinger further added that in hearing some of the allowable costs that the American Rescue Plan money can be spent on she felt that the Municipalities costs may be reimbursable through this Plan. Attorney Rossmeyssl added that even though the guidelines for spending monies from the American Rescue Plan can be very finicky, it does appear that at least a portion of these costs would be reimbursable. After some discussion the Committee felt like this would be a worthy investment and the Deputy Clerk will confirm availability of funds with the Chief Financial Officer.

OLD BUSINESS

Mitchell Humphrey & Co. Software – Ms. Martin commented that she has been back and forth with Mitchell Humphrey ironing out some details of the program and what would be needed as far as data input to have the Zoning portion interconnect with the Township Code. It was decided that a few items on the original quote were not needed. What they would need to find out is the cost from General Code to get the Ordinances as an Excel File to upload to Mitchell Humphrey. Ms. Martin commented that she has reached out to General Code and is waiting for that quote which she will have for the next meeting.

REPORTS

Recreation Report – Ms. Martin announced that a sponsorship of \$500 was received from Provident Bank which the Township will be using to defray the costs of the Ice Cream Truck that will be here on June 26th for the Grand Opening of the Community Center and Fireworks at dark. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be at 3PM, the Miss Montague pageant will be at 4PM with the Fireworks and Free Ice Cream to begin at dusk. ShopRite will also be donating cases of water. Mayor Innella also added that at the High Point Community Corp. meeting this Saturday they will be considering a donation to the Township of Montague of \$2,500.00 towards the Fireworks display.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (limited to three minutes per person)

Mr. Merusi made a motion to open to the public. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

There being no comment from the public, Ms. Martin made a motion to close to the public. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Martin made a motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Zitone seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

MONTAGUE TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION 2021-51

WHEREAS the Township of Montague is authorized, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 to exclude the public from that portion of this meeting for purposes of discussing specific matters as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

WHEREAS the Township intends to discuss certain matters which are deemed confidential pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 in Executive Session; and

WHEREAS at this time the Township cannot determine the time when the discussions to be held in Executive Session will be made public but will disclose the minutes of the Executive Session when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Township Committee of the Township of Montague that this meeting shall be adjourned to an executive session (closed session) and the public will be excluded in order that the Committee may, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-13(a), discuss Personnel without taking action, and after reconvening this public meeting action may be taken and the Mayor or her designee will announce, if possible, the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in Executive Session will be disclosed to the public. This resolution is authorized and allowed by and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13.

NOW THEREFORE, be it further resolved by the Township Committee that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13(b) the time when and the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in closed session of the public body can be disclosed to the public is when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Mr. Merusi made a motion to close Executive Session. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Merusi made a motion to open to Regular Session. Ms. Martin seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Zitone commented that the Township advertised for a full-time position of DPW Driver/Laborer with a CDL. Mr. Zitone then made a motion to hire one of the two candidates that were interviewed earlier in the day within the Salary Ordinance ranges for this position. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

ADJOURN

Mr. Zitone made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Merusi seconded, and the motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:

**DANA KLINGER, RMC
DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK**